

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A cutting head for brush cutter or edge trimmer, the head being of the type including a passageway (112) for a cutter string (300) and at least one curved portion (120) for supporting the string, the portion extending between an exit region (115) for said string from said passageway and a peripheral region of the head, the head being characterized in that the passageway extends along an axis (A) that is spaced a distance (D) in a manner that the cutter string extends offset from an axis of rotation (C) of the head so as to present an inner edge (112A) constituted by its edge closest to said axis of rotation, said inner edge engaging ~~corresponding to~~ a trailing edge of the string while the head is rotating, and in that the curved portion extends from said inner edge.

2. (Original) A cutting head according to claim 1, characterized in that the string passageway (112) is essentially rectilinear.

3. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 2, characterized in that the string passageway (112) is situated at a given distance (D) from the axis of rotation (C) of the head, and in that the curved portion (120) presents, at least locally, a radius of curvature (R) that is greater than said distance.

4. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 1, characterized in that the curved portion (120) presents a radius of curvature that is constant.

5. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 1, characterized in that the curved portion (120) presents a radius of curvature that is variable.

6. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 1, characterized in that the curved portion (120) joins the string passageway (112) substantially tangentially.

7. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 1, characterized in that the curved portion (120) joins the peripheral region of the head substantially tangentially.

8. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 1, characterized in that a secondary curved portion (122) is provided between an outer edge of the passageway (112) opposite from its inner edge and the peripheral region of the head.

9. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 1, characterized in that two string passageways (112, 112') and their respective curved portions (120, 120') are provided.

10. (Original) A cutting head according to claim 9, characterized in that the two string passageways (112, 112') are situated on either side of the axis of rotation of the head, and in that the string outlets (115) from the respective passageways are situated in diametrically-opposite regions of the head.

11. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 1, characterized in that the cutter string (300) presents a cross-section that is polygonal.

12. (Original) A cutting head according to claim 11, characterized in that the cutter string (300) presents a width greater than about 3 mm.

13. (Previously Presented) A vegetation cutting device characterized in that it includes a cutting head according to claim 1 and motor suitable for rotating said head.

14. (Currently Amended) A cutting head for brush cutter or edge trimmer, the head being of the type including a passageway (112) for a cutter string (300) and at least one curved portion (120) for supporting the string, the portion extending between an exit region (115) for said string from said passageway and a peripheral region of the head, the head being characterized in that the passageway (112) [(A)] is essentially rectilinear in a manner that it is offset from an axis of rotation (C) of the head situated at a given distance (D) from the axis of rotation (C) of the head so as to present an inner edge constituted by its edge closest to said axis of rotation, said inner edge corresponding to a trailing edge of the string while the head is

rotating, and in that the curved portion (120) presents, at least locally, a radius of curvature (R) that is greater than said distance and extends from said inner edge.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 14, characterized in that the curved portion (120) presents a radius of curvature that is constant.

17. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 14, characterized in that the curved portion (120) presents a radius of curvature that is variable.

18. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 14, characterized in that the curved portion (120) joins the string passageway (112) substantially tangentially.

19. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 14, characterized in that the curved portion (120) joins the peripheral region of the head substantially tangentially.

20. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 14, characterized in that a secondary curved portion (122) is provided between an outer edge of the passageway (112) opposite from its inner edge and the peripheral region of the head.

21. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 14, characterized in that two string passageways (112, 112') and their respective curved portions (120, 120') are provided.

22. (Currently Amended) A cutting head according to claim 21, characterized in that the two string passageways (112, 112') are situated on either side of the axis of rotation of the head, and in that the ~~string outlets~~ exit regions (115) from the respective passageways are situated in diametrically-opposite regions of the head.

23. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to of claim 14, characterized in that the cutter string (300) presents a cross-section that is polygonal.

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24. (Previously Presented) A cutting head according to claim 23, characterized in that the cutter string (300) presents a width greater than about 3 mm.